



Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph numbered 0034 with the following:

First, in step S1, a longitudinal distance relative to a obstacle preceding the host vehicle, or a distance between the front end of the host vehicle and the rear end of an obstacle, and a lateral offset relative to the obstacle, or a distance between a longitudinal center line of the host vehicle and that of the obstacle are detected. Based on the detected information, a relative speed is calculated. In detail, forward-monitoring unit 1 detects a road condition in front of the host vehicle. A geometrical relationship among the vehicle, an obstacle and a path where the vehicle is traveling, is detected. The monitored or detected information by forward-monitoring unit 1 is shown in FIG. 3. FIG. 3 is a road condition applied to the embodiment. As shown in FIG. 3, a preceding vehicle as a forward obstacle 102 is traveling in front of the host vehicle 101. The vehicle width of host vehicle 101 is W_1 . There is a space with a width of W_{2_L} ~~to is in~~ the left of preceding vehicle 102 and a space with a width of W_{2_R} ~~to is in~~ the right of preceding vehicle 102. Forward-monitoring unit 1 detects or scans a forward state and outputs the detected information to relative position and speed detecting unit 11.

Please replace the paragraph numbered 0054 with the following:

The term of $(L_w/2)$ in equations (1) and (2) is according to the assumption that forward-monitoring unit 1 (laser ~~radar~~ ~~raider~~ sensor) is attached to the center of the front of the vehicle with an overall width L_w . When forward-monitoring unit 1 is attached to the vehicle with an offset in the lateral direction, equations (1) and (2) need modifications of addition or subtraction of the offset.

Please replace the paragraph numbered 0079 with the following:

In the embodiment, forward-monitoring unit 1 is a scanning type laser ~~radar~~ ~~raider~~ sensor. However the invention is not limited to this configuration. Forward-monitoring unit 1 only needs to be a device which monitors a road condition in front of the host vehicle or a condition of the path where the host vehicle is traveling. Forward-monitoring unit 1 may be a device such as a millimeter wave ~~radar~~ ~~raider~~ sensor and an infrared ~~radar~~ ~~raider~~ sensor.